GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6264
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000
NEW COAL MINES RESERVE
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Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new coal mines reserves have been discovered in many states during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise, reserve-wise and grade-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the government to exploit this coal reserves?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES & MINERALS

(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): No new coalfields has been discovered during the calender year 1999-2000. However, exploration/compilation of coal deposits in the country is done by Geological Survey of India(GSI) on a continuous basis. By such exploration the reserves of coal is updated every year as on 1st January by GSI. During the calender year 1999, 2.86 billion tonnes of new coal reserves was added to the already known reserves, the details of which are as below location-wise and reserve- wise:-

(IN BILLION TONNES)

LOCATION	TOTAL RESERVES
WEST BENGAL	0.01
BIHAR	0.38
MADHYA PRADESH	0.73
MAHARASHTRA	0.10
ORISSA	1.39
ANDHRA PRADESH	0.25
TOTAL	2.86

The grade-wise break-up of the above is as below:-

GRADE	QUANTITY (IN BILLION TONNES)
PRIME COKING	NIL
MEDIUM COKING	0.36
SEMI COKING	NIL
NON-COKING	2.50
TERTIARY	NIL
TOTAL	2.86

(c): After regional/promotional drilling, potential blocks are identified for detailed drilling and it takes a period of about 3 years for detailed drilling and formulation of geological report, which serves as the base document for planning. Thereafter project report for the coal mine is prepared and is processed for sanction by the Government of India after approval of the Company Board and the Coal India Limited (CIL) Board. The exploitation of the reserves can be started only after the land acquisition, release of forest land and approval of Environmental Management Plan(EMP) by Ministry of Environment and Forest. Hence, it takes a period of about 6 to 7 years after regional/promotional drilling before mining can be started in particular block.